

The Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, before a luncheon of The White House Conference on International Cooperation, Sheraton-Park Hotel, Washington, D. C., Wednesday, 1 December 1965, at 2:00 PM EST, asked the question which follows, gave the response as quoted:

Q. Mr. Secretary, the question that I have before me is really not a question, but it's a statement, it's a message for you from someone here --

A. Please --

Q. I think it really reflects the mood in which this conference is greeting you. Because he says, Mr. Secretary, whatever the question, whatever the answer, you have our deepest sympathy and our cooperation. And then a question, in this country, the people are expected to participate in the dialogue with government, in the determination of policy. But what can be done when the CIA seems to be making policy, completely removed from the public and even from government control?

A. Well in the first place the CIA does not make policy, and is not engaged in activities unknown to the policy offices of the government. There is at the present time, in certain other countries, an organized effort, through forgeries, through lies, to implicate us in situations in which we're not at all implicated. Now this is a difficult problem, but I would emphasize to you that CIA is not engaged in activities not known to the senior policy officers of the government. But you should also bear in mind, that beneath the level of public discussion, there is a tough struggle going on in the back alleys all over the world. It's a tough one, it's unpleasant, and no one likes it, but that is not a field which can be left entirely to the other side. And so once in a while some disagreeable things happen, and I can tell you that there is a good deal of gallantry and high degree of competence in those who have to help us deal with that part of the struggle for freedom, as in other parts of the struggle for freedom.

George F. Moran